

Remarks

Claims 1, 4 and 7 are cancelled. Claims 8-11 are new. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are amended herein. Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-11 are pending in the Application.

Rejection under 102(e)

Claims 1-4

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mutze (5,889,554). Applicant has reviewed Mutze and respectfully states that Mutze does not anticipate the present invention for the following rationale.

Applicant respectfully states that Claims 1 and 4 are canceled herein. Therefore, the rejection with respect to Claims 1 and 4 is moot.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended herein to depend from Independent Claim 6. As the Examiner has stated, Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base Claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicant respectfully states that Independent Claim 6 is currently amended to include all the limitations from the previously Independent Claim 1 and the intervening Claim 4.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2 and 3 are now in condition for allowance as pending from an allowable Claim 6 re-written in Independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims.

Claims 9-11 have been added herein to depend from Independent Claim 8. As the Examiner has stated, Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base Claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim 1 and any intervening

Claims 4. Applicant respectfully states that Independent Claim 8 is currently amended to include all the limitations from Claim 7, Independent Claim 1 and the intervening Claim 4.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 9-11 are now in condition for allowance as pending from an allowable Claim 8.

Rejection under 103(a)

Claim 5

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mutze in view of Niwamoto (6,134,347). Applicant respectfully states that Claim 5 is canceled herein. Therefore, the rejection with respect to Claim 5 is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowable subject matter of Claims 6 and 7 if rewritten in Independent form to include all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims.

As stated herein, Applicant has rewritten Claim 6 in Independent form to include all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Moreover, Applicant has written a new Independent Claim 8 based on the rewriting of Claim 7 in Independent form to include all of the limitations of the previous base Claim 1 and the previous intervening Claim 4. Moreover, Applicant has written new Claims 9-11 to depend from the allowable Independent Claim 8.

Conclusion

In light of the above allowable subject matter, amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests issuance of the now allowable Claims 2-3, 5-6, and 8-11.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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